CODDINGTON

Remembering the Fallen of WWI

Private 243705 Albert White

1st/6th Battalion Cheshire Regiment

Private Albert White died on 26 September 1917 aged twenty-nine. He served with the 1st/6th Cheshire Regiment and is remembered at the Tyne Cot Memorial near Ypres in Belgium. Tyne Cot is the largest Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery on the Western Front with 11,953 burials, but the Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing bears the names of almost 35,000 officers and men whose graves are not known. Albert's name is on this memorial as he was never found. He is recorded panel 63.

Tyne Cot Belgium

Above: **Pupils of The Whitby High School, Cheshire, on a visit to Tyne Cot during a four day tour of the Battlefields, led by Farndon resident Mike Royden. They are paying their respects to the men of the Cheshire Regiment recorded on the panels behind them. Albert White is recorded on the bottom of the far right panel.**

Above: **Tyne Cot. The Cheshire Regiment memorial panels are contained within the circular structure to the bottom left. Below, some of the 12,000 graves.**

Albert was the son of single mother Hannah White. Hannah was born in Hargrave near Tattenhall and was baptised on 22 June 1862. In 1871 her mother Margaret died and Hannah's father John returned to Churton, the village of his birth, no doubt to seek the support of his family to help take care of his young children. Two years later in Churton he met and married his second wife Jane Probin. By 1881, nineteen year old Hannah (or Anna as she was originally known), had begun work as a servant on Parker's Farm in the village. Seven years' later she gave birth to Albert, and it is likely that in such a small community she did not want cause a scandal for her family, as Albert was taken in by her brother William who was now living near Wrexham. By 1891, Hannah moved away from Churton to work as a servant in Bruen Stapleford in the Tarvin Road farm of John Robinson.

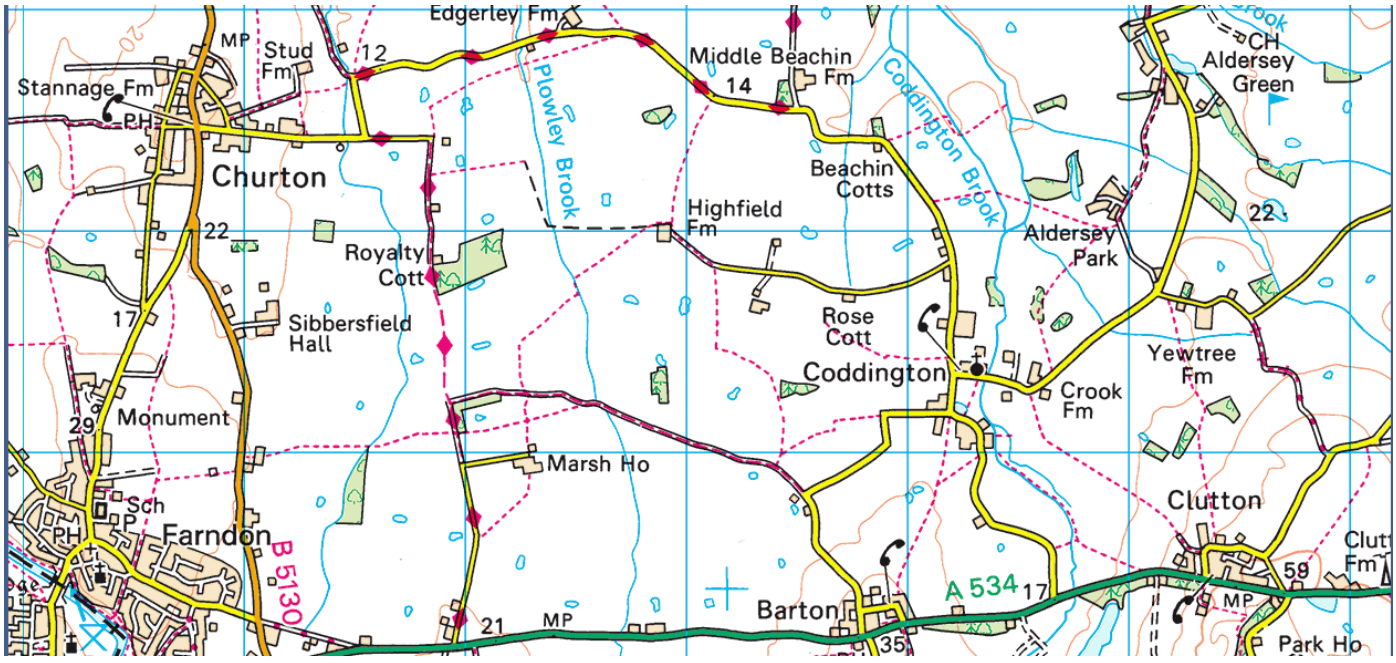
[NB. This makes Albert White the first cousin of William's sons who are on the Churton (proposed) Memorial.]

In 1895, Hannah was married to John Bellis (born 1864) who hailed from Chowley. The 1901 census shows John, Hannah and Albert living at Canal Cottage in Bersham near Wrexham. The 1911 census reveals that John and Hannah were living in Beechin (sic) Lane Coddington. John worked as a cowman and they had no children of their own from this marriage.

Beachin Lane Coddington

Meanwhile, it has been difficult to find Albert on the 1911 census. There is one Albert White living with the Peacock family in Aldersey but his birthplace is recorded as Oldcastle near Malpas. Given that Albert's parents were living just a mile or two away it might be justified in thinking that this is our Albert. The Peacock family farmed Yew Tree Farm at that time which has been the Sadler family home since the 1930's.

Yew Tree Farm Aldersey – home of the Peacock family

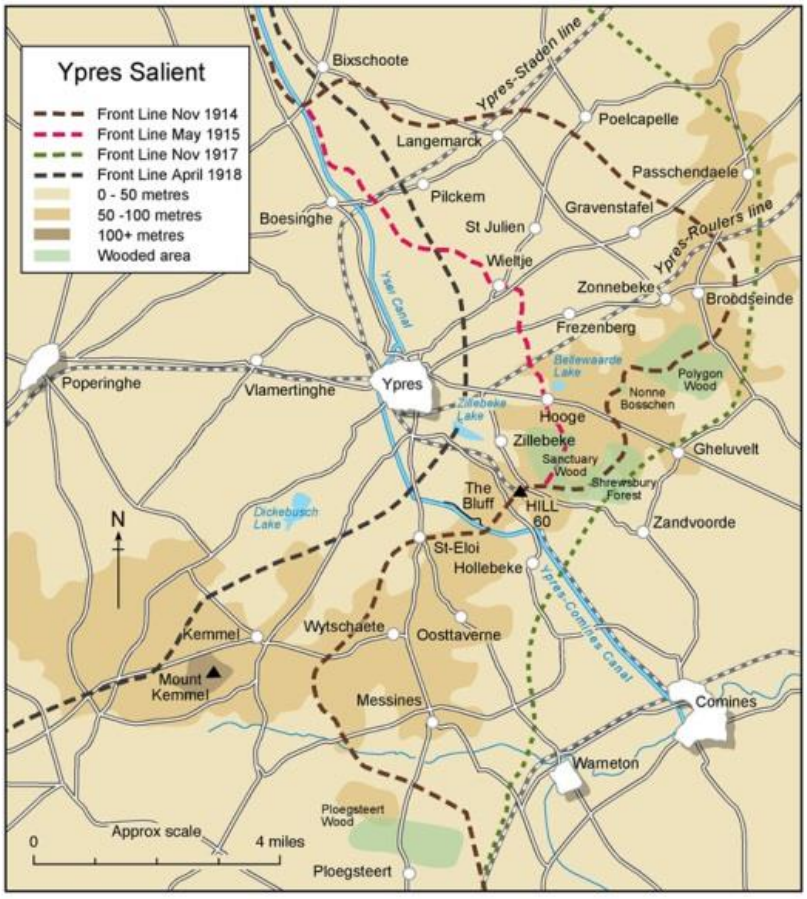


The 1/6th Battalion, Cheshire Regiment was a Territorial unit based in Stockport with Cheshire Brigade, Welsh Division when war broke out in August 1914. They proceeded to France on the 10th of November 1914 joining 15th Brigade, 5th Division on the 17 December 1914. On the 1st of March 1915 they transferred to GHQ and took over guard and other duties at Rouen, Abbeville and Dieppe. On the 9th of January 1916 they transferred to 20th Brigade, 7th Division then on the 29th of February 1916 to 118th Brigade, in the newly arrived 39th Division to replace units who had remained in England to complete their training. It is likely that Albert arrived in France sometime in 1916. His war record no longer exists, but his medal card shows he was not in action in 1915.

On the 30th June 1916 the 1/6th Cheshires were in action in an attack near Richebourg l'Avoue with the Sussex battalions and suffered heavy casualties. They were in action again during the Battles of the Somme, including, the fighting on the Ancre, The Battle of Thiepval Ridge, The Battle of the Ancre heights and the capture of Schwaben Redoubt and Stuff Trench as well as The Battle of the Ancre.

In 1917 they fought in The Battle of Pilkem Ridge, The Battle of Langemarck, The Battle of the Menin Road Ridge and The Battle of Polygon Wood. This last battle started on 26th September 1917 which is the date of Albert's death. Of course we shall never know if Albert sustained injuries during the first day of the Battle of Polygon Wood of if he was injured before that date at the Battle of Menin Road and died later from his injuries.

With the death of Albert, the family line died out. Hannah and John are recorded as living at Beech Cottage, Rushton, Tarporley in 1917.

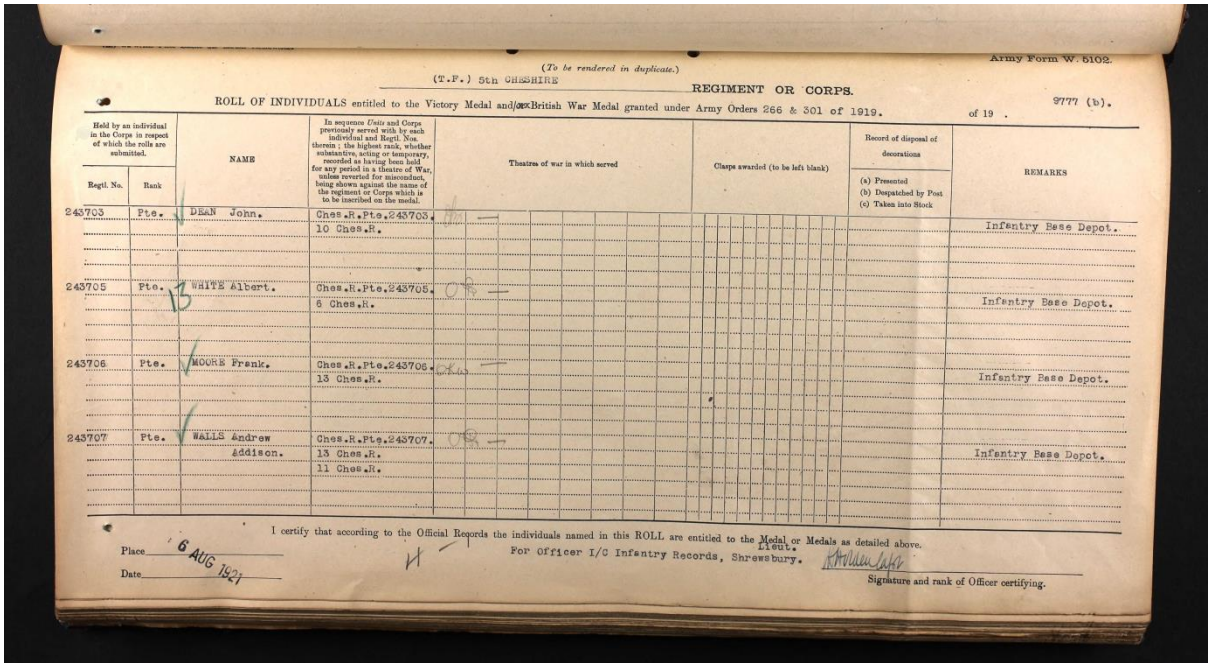


Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
WHITE	Ches R	Pte	243705
Albert			

Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
Victory	WO/329/1018	9774	
British	do	do	
Star			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

K. 1380

Medal Records



Army Form W. 5102.

(To be rendered in duplicate.)

(T.F.) 5th CHESHIRE REGIMENT OR CORPS.

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Victory Medal and/or British War Medal granted under Army Orders 266 & 301 of 1919. of 19 .

9777 (b).

Held by an individual in the Corps in respect of which the rolls are submitted. Regtl. No.	Rank	NAME	In sequence Units and Corps previously served with by each individual and Regtl. Nos. therein; the highest rank, whether substantive, acting or temporary, recorded as having been held for any period in a theatre of War, unless reverted for misconduct, being shown against the name of the regiment or Corps which is to be inscribed on the medal.	Theatres of war in which served	Clasps awarded (to be left blank)	Record of disposal of decorations (a) Presented (b) Despatched by Post (c) Taken into Stock	REMARKS
243703	Pte.	DEAN John.	Ches.R.Pte.243703.				
			10 Ches.R.				Infantry Base Depot.
243705	Pte.	WHITE Albert.	Ches.R.Pte.243705.				
			6 Ches.R.				Infantry Base Depot.
243706	Pte.	MOORE Frank.	Ches.R.Pte.243706.				
			13 Ches.R.				Infantry Base Depot.
243707	Pte.	WALLS Andrew Addison.	Ches.R.Pte.243707.				
			13 Ches.R.				Infantry Base Depot.
			11 Ches.R.				

I certify that according to the Official Records the individuals named in this ROLL are entitled to the Medal or Medals as detailed above.

Place 6 AUG 1921

Date

For Officer I/C Infantry Records, Shrewsbury. Lieut.

Signature and rank of Officer certifying.

In Memory of

Private

Albert White

243705, 1st/6th Bn., Cheshire Regiment who died on 26 September 1917 Age 27

Son of Mrs. Hannah Bellis, of Beech Cottage, Rushton, Tarporley, Cheshire.

Remembered with Honour

Tyne Cot Memorial

Commemorated in perpetuity by

the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Researched and written

by

Helen Sadler